

Remarks

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 20, 2007.

Per the above amendment, claims 1-9 and 13-18 have been canceled, claim 11 amended, and new claims 21-33 added. Accordingly, claims 11-12 and 21-33 are pending in this application.

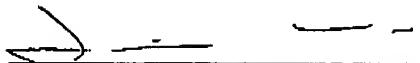
With the cancellation of claims 1-9 and 13-18, and the amending of dependent claim 11 into an independent format, it is respectfully submitted that claims 11 and 12 should now be formally allowed.

In view of the examiner's comments in regard to the rejection of claim 1 under Fecteau (US 6,536,435) on page 4 of the Office Action, and particularly the examiner's comments that the noted limitations were not considered insofar as the examiner considers those limitations to be a part of product by process claims and therefore had only focused the patentability of claim 1 based on the product itself. That being the case, all apparatus claims but for claims 11 and 12 as well as method claim 18, have now been cancelled. In their place, method claims 21-33 have been added, with independent claim 21 particularly setting forth the step limitations which the examiner had not considered in the previous Office Action since those steps were allegedly parts to a product by process claim.

As admitted by the examiner, the steps recited in claim 1 are not explicitly taught by Fecteau. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 21, and claims 22-33 dependent therefrom are patentable over the prior art.

In view of the forgoing, applicants respectfully submit that the present application is patentably distinguishable over the prior art. Accordingly, the examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application and pass the case to issue at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,


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